

THE LOUISIANA GROUND WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

**2nd QUARTER MEETING
SUMMARY**

Monday, June 27, 2005

Prepared by:

The Department of Natural Resources

Office of Conservation

Ground Water Resources Division Staff

Commission members in attendance:

Scott Kirkpatrick, Chairman

James H. Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation

Karen Gautreaux, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Zahir "Bo" Bolourchi, Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development/Water Resources

Darwin Knochenmus, Capital Area Groundwater Commission

Richard Durrett, Sparta Ground Water Conservation

John Roussel, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Linda Walker, League of Women Voters

Karen Irion, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Bill Cefalu – Police Jury Association

Jackie Loewer – Chicot Aquifer

Call to Order – Governor's Office

Mr. Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order asking the Commission members to introduce themselves and state the organization(s) they represent.

Ground Water Staff Activities

Mr. Duplechin gave an overview of the Ground Water Resources Division's activities since the last Commission meeting which included attendance at a field demonstration of a Wastewater Re-use Project in West Monroe and the Sparta Awareness Day in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

The motion was passed for the Ground Water Resources Division to draft letters of commendation on behalf of the Ground Water Resources Commission for Commissioner Welsh's approval and signature. These letters will be addressed to organizations such as the Trailblazer Rural Development Institute, the Claiborne Parish Watershed District, and the LSU AgCenter for their continued efforts in informing citizens of the need for conservation measures relating to ground water resources by assisting in promoting educational activities. The Ground Water Resources Division will search for other groups involved in similar education days so that their efforts can be acknowledged.

Old Business

The Final Order relative to the application from the Sparta Ground Water Conservation District for critical ground water designation becomes effective on August 16, 2005. The form attached to the order will be revised to include the owner's signature in order to verify the authenticity of the information.

New Business

An update regarding sixteen pieces of legislation the Ground Water Resources Division followed during the 2005 Regular Session was given by Mr. Duplechin.

Representative James R. "Jim" Fannin reported on the intent behind House Bill No. 388 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 132.

Commission Comments

Recommendations by the Commission included: the Outreach Committee should be rejuvenated to follow through and assist the Office of Conservation is developing a statewide plan for conservation measures and education, schedule a meeting during the next legislative session so that bills affecting ground water could be discussed, and schedule an Advisory Task Force meeting before the next Commission meeting.

Advisory Task Force Comments

A timetable was not available regarding the rules pertinent to the establishment of Regional Water Bodies. It was recommended that these rules and a report from the Advisory Task Force be added to the next meeting agenda.

It was suggested for the ATF Outreach Committee take advantage of free EPA educational opportunities.

The recommendation was made asking that the parish watershed districts be responsible for education measures regarding conservation of ground water in each parish.

Public Comments

Mr. Mickey Mays, President of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, stated the history behind the Sparta Aquifer issues then presented a power point presentation on the Sparta. Information presented is from the 2002 application and the Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix and Hixson report.

Schedule for the next Meeting

The dates of Monday, September 12 and Monday, September 19 were discussed as tentative dates for the next meeting. Scott Kirkpatrick asked the commissioners to send an e-mail to Mr. Anthony Duplechin if they have conflicts on either of those dates.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 P.M.